

Telephone Connections in J & K

2099. SHRI GULAM MOHD. MIR MAGANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons registered and wait-listed for telephone connections in Jammu & Kashmir, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government have a plan to clear the waiting list upto March 1997; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The number of persons registered and wait-listed for telephone connections as on 31 Jan, 97 in Jammu & Kashmir, district-wise is as given in statement.

(b) and (c) Due to prevailing conditions in Jammu & Kashmir, it is planned to clear about 2000 wait-listed persons during 96-97 and the remaining progressively during 97-98 and 98-99.

Statement

The district wise details of the No. of persons registered and wait-listed for Telephone connections in J & K

Sl. No.	Name of District	Waiting list as on 31.1.97
1.	Srinagar	15578
2.	Baramulla	868
3.	Pulwama	1028
4.	Anantnag	748
5.	Kupwara	235
6.	Badgaun	451
7.	Jammu	7467
8.	Kathua	747
9.	Rajouri	290
10.	Poonch	283
11.	Udhampur	918
12.	Doda	468
13.	Leh	1077
14.	Kargil	286

Doubling of Railway Line

2100. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress of doubling of Railway Line between Renigunta and Guntakal; and

(b) the time by which the above work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The section between Renigunta and Guntakal is already doubled in patches in the following sub-sections:-

- (i) Guntakal-Rayalcheruvu
- (ii) Kondapuram-Muddanuru
- (iii) Cuddapah-Bhakarapeta
- (iv) Balapalle-Renigunta

A Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for doubling of the remaining section from Gooty to Renigunta (280 kms.), has also been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible, once the survey report becomes available.

High Level Committee for Rural Postal Net Work

2101. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up a high level committee to monitor the operation of rural postal net work in the country;

(b) if so, when the committee is likely to start work; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken to ensure and maintain efficiency in the postal services in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee is likely to start functioning in March, 1997.

(c) The steps being taken to ensure and maintain efficiency of the postal services in rural areas are as follows:-

- (i) The mail delivery system in the rural areas is constantly monitored and periodically reviewed at the field and Headquarters level.
- (ii) Regular and repeated visits are undertaken by the visiting Officers at various levels to Post Offices and RMS Offices to assess the efficiency of processing and delivery of mails.
- (iii) Test Letters are posted between different stations to assess the transit time taken and the efficiency in delivery, locate delayed routes and take remedial steps.
- (iv) 25% of the Post Offices selected for the Rural Mail Survey are from rural areas. In addition, periodic survey of Live Mails are also undertaken in Post Offices.